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DRAFT

13 September 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Director, National Reconnaissance Office**SUBJECT : Project GEMINI Photography**

1. Your memorandum of 3 September regarding review of the public releasability of GEMINI-V photography was of special interest to me. I note with approval the recognition and careful consideration given by the reviewing group to the clear and potentially very important relationship between GEMINI photography and the photo-product of sensitive intelligence satellite programs, present and projected. In my opinion, moreover, the criteria used and the judgments made with respect to the intelligence significance of the GEMINI-V photographs as well as the actions which were taken on the basis of this inter-agency examination were appropriate.

2. I think the coordination process used in meeting the immediate release problem posed by the GEMINI-V film was quite satisfactory in view of the simplicity of the problem. Nevertheless, I am concerned that similar future experiments in the GEMINI and succeeding NASA manned space programs may well produce photography of sufficiently improved quality and resolution as to reveal U.S. intelligence capabilities for photo-satellite reconnaissance. Since disclosures about such

NRO review(s) completed.

NASA Review Completed.

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film and the cameras employed might do serious damage to our national security, we should now take action to insure against that eventuality.

3. In view of my statutory responsibility for the protection of intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure, I feel we should set up a somewhat more formal procedure which would guarantee to the intelligence community that this protection is being provided in handling photography obtained during GEMINI and later manned space flights. In addition to providing for an intelligence security review on behalf of the Director of Central Intelligence prior to public release, the procedure should also include examination of the question as to whether any security controls should be imposed on the cameras themselves. My intent, with which I am sure you will agree, is to facilitate orderly presentation of these problems to the United States Intelligence Board (USIB), which I chair and frequently consult on national security intelligence matters of this sort. I would, of course, invite representatives of the NASA and NRO to participate in the USIB deliberations when their programs are under discussion.

4. I should like to request, therefore, that you make the necessary basic arrangements to develop a procedure as outlined above which would provide an opportunity for USIB consideration and a security clearance by the Director of Central Intelligence on releases of this kind.

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My action officer on this matter will be [REDACTED],
Chairman of the USIB Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance (COMOR).

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William F. Raborn

cc: Mr. Vance
Dr. Seaman

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP					
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS		
1	Deputy Director for Support				
2	Deputy Director for Science & Technology				
3	DD/NIPE				
4	General Counsel				
5	Chairman, CONOR				
6					
	ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY		
	APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION		
	COMMENT	FILE	RETURN		
	CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	SIGNATURE		
Remarks:					
<p>1. Per recent conversation with ExDir, action on memo at Tab B from Acting Director, NRO assigned to DD/I.</p> <p>2. Draft proposed response for DCI signature is attached. Please review and provide your comments, concurrences, or other views to CGS () by 17 September, if possible.</p> <p>3. Copies have been provided to each addressee.</p>					
FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER					
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.					DATE
Chief, CGS 7-G-00					9/16/65
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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

AR-1.4

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

3 SEP 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: GEMINI V Photography

As you know, arrangements previously were made between Dr. McMillan and Dr. Seamans to process and review, here in Washington, all film taken from GEMINI V with the Questar camera prior to any public release. This included not only DoD experiments but also NASA film exposed in the same camera.

Dr. Seamans and I, along with representatives from CIA, State Department, the NRO, and NPIC, reviewed the film last Wednesday. There follows a brief summary of my observations:

a. Although several DoD facilities and systems were photographed (for example: Bergstrom AFB and the aircraft carrier Champlain), the bulk of the astronauts' attention was directed toward cloud patterns and unusual terrain features around the world;

b. Resolution varied from about 20 to 50' with the black and white film, and from about 40 to 60' with the color film;

c. Although there probably is no real intelligence value in any of the photography, the fact remains that aircraft can be observed in the Bergstrom AFB photo and the USS Champlain is clearly identifiable as an aircraft carrier.

d. The ability of man to identify a specific ground target, and point his spacecraft at and track that target, is obvious from the photography.

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At the meeting, we agreed to the following:

- a. NASA color film taken with the Questar camera was all releasable, subject only to State Department guidance with regard to possible foreign relationship problems. There is no significant intelligence information evident in any of these photographs;
- b. All of the DoD film (black and white, plus color through an IR filter) would be classified;
- c. The DoD film would be reviewed with the astronauts and appropriate members of the GEMINI team as classified material. This review for the purpose of assisting them in evaluating mission performance will be accomplished this week-end.
- d. Since the press was aware of the DoD experiments, some DoD film would probably have to be released as typical of the results obtained.

We have reviewed the DoD film and are taking the following action:

- a. Several prints are being delivered to General LeBailly as releasable to the press, if necessary. Specifically, these include photographs of Dallas, the Cape Kennedy NASA industrial area, the moon, Venus, and Alpha Centaur.
- b. General LeBailly has been instructed that, if necessary to release these prints, it will be done from Houston and with minimum fanfare. His spokesman will be cautioned that we seek minimum DoD publicity, and that all aspects of DoD Washington interest in this event are classified.

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Acting Director

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